

Meet the new commander

Lt. Col. John Hesterman

494th Fighter Squadron "Panthers"

Hometown: Wherever my folks were stationed.

Time in service: 14 years

Recent career history: Assistant operations officer, then operations officer for 492nd Fighter Squadron.

Leadership philosophy: Take care of your people and they will take care of the mission.

Short-term goals: Find and fix problems that have a negative impact on the quality of life for the 494th.

Personal information: Graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Flew the F-4 Phantom, F-16 Falcon, and F-117 Night-hawk in USAFE, PACAF and ACC. Married to Maj. Jennifer Hesterman, 48th Mission Support Squadron commander.

Hobbies: Travel with my wife; golf.

How do you fulfill core values? By believing in them, living them and communicating 'integrity, service before self, and



excellence in all we do' to my squadron.

What is the most exciting thing that's happened to you during your Air Force career? Taking command of this outstanding fighter squadron.

Who's your favorite leader in history and why?

President Lincoln, for having the fortitude to follow through on his convictions.

What's your philosophy of life and why? Respect people and try to enjoy the journey.

Who's your role model and why? My father, for teaching me the value of integrity and patriotism.

What do you like best about the Air Force? The people and the way they feel about their country.



Photo by SSgt. Scott Davis